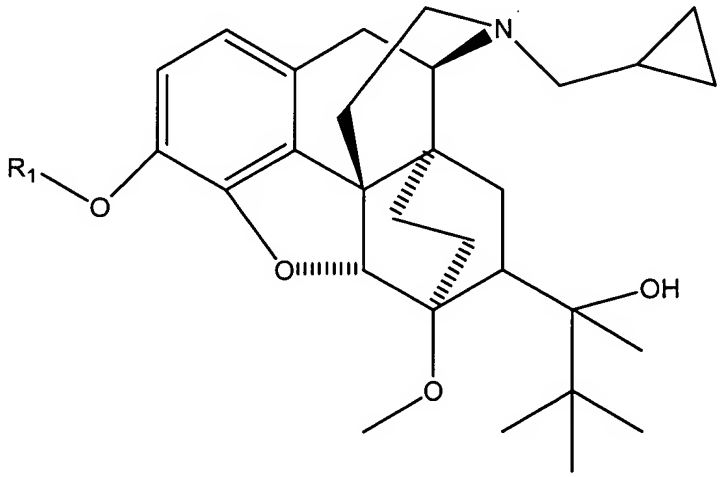
I. AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A compound of Formula I:



(I)

wherein R_1 is a moiety selected from the group consisting of alkylcarbonyl, alkenylcarbonyl, arylcarbonyl, heteroarylcarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl and heteroaryloxycarbonyl moieties;

wherein the alkyl portion of the alkylcarbonyl moiety is selected from the group consisting of unsubstituted and substituted, straight-chain and branched-chain alkyls having from 8 ~~6~~ to 20 carbon atoms; or wherein the alkyl portion of the alkyl carbonyl moiety is a cyclic alkyl having from 3 to 20 carbon atoms;

wherein the alkenyl portion of the alkenylcarbonyl moiety is selected from the group consisting of unsubstituted and substituted, straight-chain and branched-chain and cyclic alkenyl moieties having from 2 to 20 carbon atoms;

wherein the aryl portion of the arylcarbonyl moiety is selected from the group consisting of unsubstituted and substituted phenyl, and phenylalkyl; wherein the alkyl

portion of the phenylalkyl contains from 1 to 3 carbon atoms; wherein the phenyl portion of the phenylalkyl is unsubstituted or substituted;

wherein the heteroaryl portion of the heteroarylcarbonyl moiety is an aromatic 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring containing one or two heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen, and sulfur; or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 2. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 1, wherein said straight-chain alkyl is selected from the group consisting of ~~hexyl, heptyl,~~ octyl, dodecyl, and palmityl; and said straight-chain alkyl is optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, hydroxy, alkoxy(alkoxy)x, hydroxyalkoxy(alkoxy)x, amino, monoalkylamino, dialkylamino, nitro, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, and cyano, wherein x is an integer from 0 to 3 and the alkoxy contains from 1 to 5 carbon atoms.

Claim 3. (Cancelled)

Claim 4. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein said cyclic alkyl is selected from the group consisting of cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl and cyclohexyl; and said cyclic alkyl is optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, hydroxy, alkoxy(alkoxy)x, hydroxyalkoxy(alkoxy)x, amino, monoalkylamino, dialkylamino, nitro, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, and cyano, wherein x is an integer from 0 to 3 and the alkoxy portion of the alkoxycarbonyl contains from 1 to 5 carbon atoms.

Claim 5. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein said alkenyl is selected from the group consisting of vinyl, 1-propenyl, i-butenyl, pentenyl, hexenyl, n-decenyl and c-pentenyl; and said alkenyl is optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, hydroxy, alkoxy(alkoxy)x, hydroxyalkoxy(alkoxy)x, amino, monoalkylamino, dialkylamino, nitro,

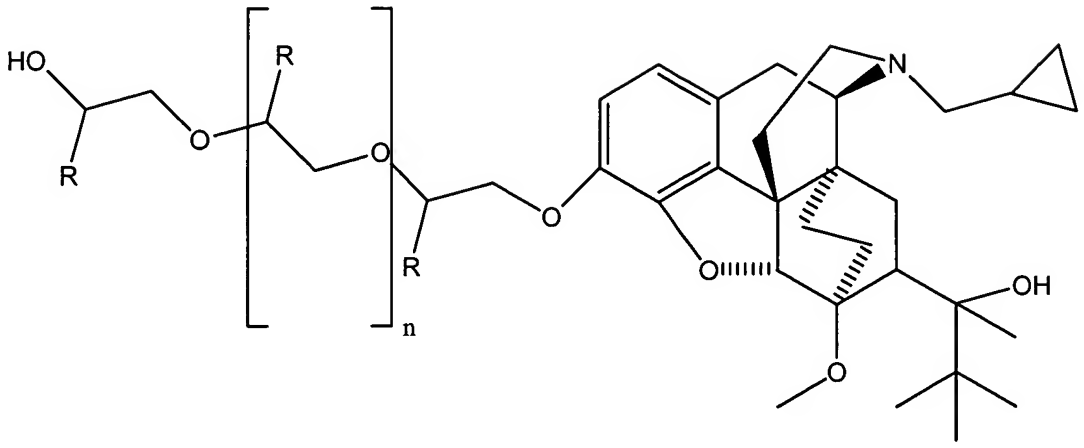
carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, and cyano, wherein x is an integer from 0 to 3 and the alkoxy portion of the alkoxycarbonyl contains from 1 to 5 carbon atoms.

Claim 6. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein said phenylalkyl is selected from the group consisting of benzyl, phenylethyl and phenylpropyl; and the phenyl portion of the phenylalkyl is optionally substituted with 1 to 3 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, halo, amino, monoalkylamino, dialkylamino, nitro, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl and cyano.

Claim 7. (Original) The compound according to claim 1, wherein said heteroaryl is selected from the group consisting of pyridinyl, thienyl and imidazolyl.

Claim 8. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R_1 is selected from group consisting of ~~hexanoyl;~~ methoxyacetyl; ethoxyacetyl; benzoyl; nicotinoyl; methoxycarbonyl; ethoxycarbonyl; propoxycarbonyl; butoxycarbonyl; hexyloxycarbonyl; octyloxycarbonyl; and imidazolylcarbonyl.

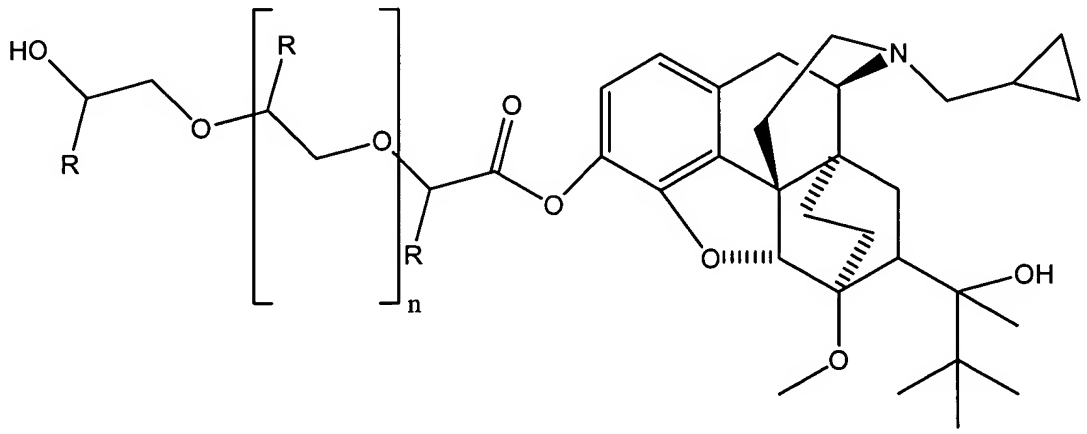
Claim 9. (Original) A compound of Formula II:



(II)

wherein n is an integer from 0 to 3 and each R is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl and ethyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 10. (Original) A compound of Formula III:



(III)

wherein n is an integer from 0 to 3 and each R is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl and ethyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 11. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any of claims 1-10 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 12. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 11, wherein said composition is in a form suitable for topical application selected from the group consisting of a transdermal patch, gauze, compress, ointment, cream, lotion, paste, gel, spray, aerosol and oil.

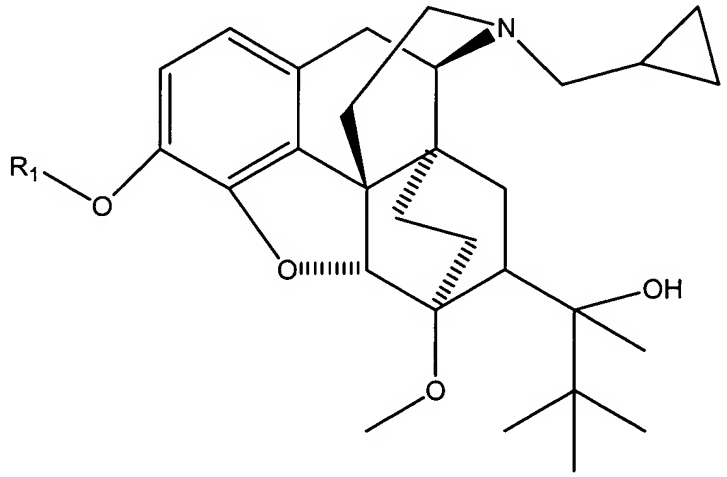
Claim 13. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 12, wherein said form suitable for topical application is a transdermal patch.

Claim 14. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 11 in a form selected from the group consisting of an oral, sublingual, implantable, intranasal, inhalable and parenteral dosage form.

Claim 15. (Original) A method for preparing a pharmaceutical composition comprising combining a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient with a compound of any of claims 1-10.

Claim 16. (Previously presented) A method for the treatment of pain in a patient in need thereof comprising applying to the skin of the patient an effective amount of a compound of any of claims 1-10.

Claim 17. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of Formula I:



(I)

wherein R_1 is a moiety selected from the group consisting of alkylcarbonyl, alkenylcarbonyl, arylcarbonyl, heteroarylcarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl and heteroaryloxycarbonyl moieties;

wherein the alkyl portion of the alkylcarbonyl moiety is selected from the group consisting of unsubstituted and substituted, straight-chain and branched-chain alkyls having from 1-20 carbon atoms; or wherein the alkyl portion of the alkyl carbonyl moiety is a cyclic alkyl having from 3 to 20 carbon atoms;

wherein the alkenyl portion of the alkenylcarbonyl moiety is selected from the group consisting of unsubstituted and substituted, straight-chain and branched-chain and cyclic alkenyl moieties having from 2 to 20 carbon atoms;

wherein the aryl portion of the arylcarbonyl moiety is selected from the group consisting of unsubstituted and substituted phenyl, and phenylalkyl; wherein the alkyl portion of the phenylalkyl contains from 1 to 3 carbon atoms; wherein the phenyl portion of the phenylalkyl is unsubstituted or substituted;

wherein the heteroaryl portion of the heteroarylcarbonyl_ moiety is an aromatic 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring containing one or two heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen, and sulfur;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and

a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier;

wherein the composition is in a form selected from the group consisting of an oral, sublingual, implantable, intranasal, inhalable and parenteral dosage form.